

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR 02 JULY

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1. HAITI: TALKS TEETERING, TENSIONS RISING

DISSENT WITHIN THE MILITARY DELEGATION TO UN-SPONSORED TALKS IN NEW YORK AND MOUNTING UNREST IN PORT-AU-PRINCE ARE UNDERCUTTING ARMY CHIEF CEDRAS'S NEGOTIATING POSITION, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

CEDRAS'S PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN, A RIGHTIST EXTREMIST, YESTERDAY PUBLICLY REJECTED THE UN MEDIATOR'S PROPOSED SOLUTION; ANOTHER SPOKESMAN SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO DISCUSS THE PLAN. AT LEAST FIVE SMALL EXPLOSIONS WERE REPORTED ON THURSDAY IN PORT-AU-PRINCE; MEANWHILE, A POLICE AIDE BEAT THE DRIVER OF A UN-OAS HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR IN THE CAPITAL, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS.

COMMENT: UNLESS CEDRAS REVERSES HIS APPARENT FAILURE TO WIN CONCESSIONS FROM ARISTIDE OR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN EXCHANGE FOR THOSE HE HAS MADE, HIS CONTROL PROBABLY WILL FURTHER ERODE, AND HE MAY STEP ASIDE. HE MAY DEFER IN ANY CASE TO POLITICAL LEADERS ON THE NAMING OF A NEW PRIME MINISTER; HE PROBABLY WOULD HOPE SUCH A MOVE WOULD ALLOW HIM TO RETURN TO PORT-AU-PRINCE TO REASSERT HIS AUTHORITY AND VET AN ACCORD. DELAY IN THE TALKS WILL FUEL UNREST.

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SECRET